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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

TO: Educators Across Montana

FROM: Linda McCulloch
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: May 6, 2003

RE: Teachers' Appreciation Day

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery"
Mark Van Doren

It is a real pleasure to take this opportunity to thank all of you across the state in honor of America's observance of Teachers' Appreciation Day.

Your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to public education and Montana's children are unsurpassed. The theme for today is "Bring out the best: TEACH!" This statement really speaks to the heart of why we all entered the teaching profession in the first place. Teachers open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, motivators and mentors. Teachers continue to influence students long after the school days are only memories.

I can't think of any other profession that touches so many people in such a special and lasting way as teaching does. Often I fondly remember my two decades as an elementary school teacher and the rich moments as I watched one of my students learn to read, discover their favorite character in a book or figure out the answer to a tough question. There truly are few professions that touch the human soul and are as rewarding as being a teacher.

Montana educators, you have my deepest thanks and appreciation. I am inspired by the discipline, resourcefulness and goodness you bring every day to your job and the challenge of being a teacher. Montana is so very lucky to have all of you who wake up every morning dedicated to helping bring out the best in our children.

Thank you... and happy Teacher Appreciation Day!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda McCulloch".